

RSVP Newsletter



Lead With Experience



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**



BROWN FAMILY HEALTH CENTER Nacogdoches, Texas



The Brown Family Health Center now has a "Serenity Garden" in their backyard. They have over 31 raised beds growing a variety of vegetables and fruit, pollinator bed, peach tree, blackberries, blueberries, and strawberries. If you would like to volunteer or need information, please contact Gary Roberts at (936) 553-1293 or RSVP Area Coordinator, Erin Hollis at (936) 201-0354



The AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program can be contacted at the following address and phone number:

Deep East Texas Council of
Governments - RSVP
1405 Kurth Drive
Lufkin, TX
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www.detcog.gov/rsvp
936-634-2247, ext. 5354 or
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Serving Angelina, Houston,
Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton,
Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San
Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and
Tyler Counties

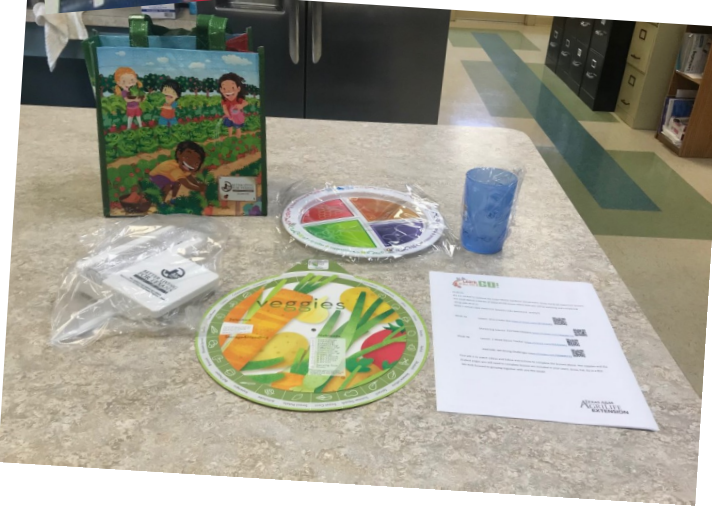
DETCOG
Deep East Texas Council of Governments

Lonnie Hunt
Executive Director

Our RSVP Newsletter is on
www.detcog.gov/rsvp

SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY MASTER GARDNERS GET READY FOR PLANTING - San Augustine County Master Gardeners and interns are busy preparing the vegetable garden at the San Augustine Elementary outdoor classroom.

Our Master Gardener and RSVP volunteers usually spend most of their time working with the students at San Augustine Elementary in their Outdoor Classroom. As part of the Learn, Go, Eat, and Grow Program, these wonderful volunteers teach 86 third and fourth graders the importance of healthy eating, exercise, and gardening. However, due to Covid-19 and the school restrictions they had to come up with a new way to keep the kids engaged. They came up with a great idea! Every WEEK they send home little goodie bags for the kids. Included in these bags is a great assortment of items and ideas for the kids. They include things like, lesson plans, recipes, seeds and instructions, exercise and fitness ideas and challenges and arts and crafts. While they cannot work with the kids in the Outdoor Classroom right now, they are constantly maintaining and planting new fruits and vegetables to send home with the kids.





Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Spring 2021 is here and we are ready for the beautiful East Texas plants to bloom and bring in some color and warmth to us all.

We want to welcome our new volunteers from October to present who joined the AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program from October 2020 through today.

Our volunteers have been busy doing great things throughout Deep East Texas.

Welcome!

New and Returning AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Members

Nettie Adams	Milderine Fortune	Tom McMullen	Robert Turner
Lisa Anderson	Dawn Fink	Linda Mutters	John Ward
Kerry Arrant	Marvin Gilley	Rita Newman	Bettie Weathered
Jerry Beaird	Suzzie Gilliam	Randall Ordner	Peggy Whitehead
Susie Belt	Anna Graham	Wanda Parks	
Delois Blackwell	Claudia Hamilton	James Peachee	
Gwen Borel	Jean Hines	Steve Rashall	
Jeff Boyd	Peter Julo	Paul L. Richardson	
Jan Brown	Therese Julo	Sherri Richardson	
Darlene Bryan	Christine Kira	Nelda Sheppard	
Joyce Bush	Donald "Rocky" Langston	Douglas Sinclair	
Polly Caldwell	Linda LaVerne	Barbara Smith	
Patricia Cheek	George Lawless	Louise Smith	
Kathy Cramer	Dr. Wayne Lawrence	Deborah Spinar	
Aubrey Crane	Mary Luetkemeyer	Dorothy St. Aubin	
Darryl Crane	Pat Martin	Lewis Stephens	
Waldo Dalchau	Robert Matheson	Wanda Stephens	
Shelley Deniston	Marilyn Mays	Genevia Summers	
Lisa Denman	Patricia McCann	Charles Thomas	
John Eakin	Dierdre McLendon	James Tomlinson	

• A NEW LOOK!

• The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) on Sept. 29, 2020, announced a new brand name for the future. CNCS will now operate under the name "AmeriCorps" and "AmeriCorps Seniors" as part of a larger effort to grow awareness of service opportunities for all Americans.

• For 50 plus years Senior Corps volunteers have brought about the best of America. Although we have a new name, our legacy will continue. Instead of Senior Corps RSVP, we have a new name "AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, serving under the RSVP Program."



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**



MLK Day of Service FOOD DRIVE



TIMPSON ELEMENTARY

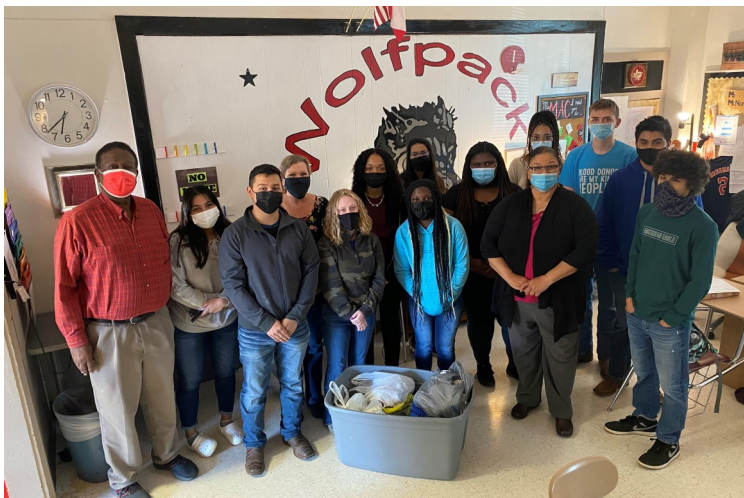
On behalf of Timpson Food For Thought Pantry, we want to thank Timpson Elementary for a GREAT JOB! This was initiated by DETCOG, AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Area Coordinator, Erin Hollis in support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

These students are not just learning the basic three R's — Reading, Writing, Arithmetic...they are learning and sharing the school motto of Respect, Regard, and Responsibility. I applaud the Timpson Elementary students for their caring & sharing with our community! They collected over 400 lbs of food.

Timpson Food For Thought Pantry distributes food once per Month on the 3rd Friday from 9am to 11am at the First Baptist Church parking lot/ drive through.



SAN AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL



San Augustine High School also participated in the MLK Food Drive and collected food to help support their local community by giving to Care and Share in San Augustine. Care and Share is a non-profit organization that helps and provides low-income individuals with food, clothing, and other essential needs.



MLK Day of Service FOOD DRIVE



Continued

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Patrick Catholic School in Lufkin also participated in the MLK Day of Service Food Drive.

St. Patrick students collected lots of pantry items that went to help support The Salvation Army in Lufkin.



The Salvation Army of Lufkin, Texas, is located at 412 South Third Street. They are open for hot meals from 12pm to 1:00pm for drive by pick up. The food boxes are given Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1:45pm and 2:45pm, and are only given by an appointment made the day before, by calling them at 936-634-5132. The Salvation Army of Lufkin is always in need of donations to the Thrift Store next door and money donations to The Salvation Army. They help the lost, the vulnerable, the needy, the poor, the hurting, the helpless, and the hopeless.



MLK Day of Service FOOD DRIVE

Continued

HEMPHILL ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

We also want to thank Hemphill Elementary/Middle School for their participation in the MLK Day of Service Food Drive. They collected dry, canned, and boxed items to the Hemphill Salvation Army. The ladies at The Salvation Army in Hemphill were so excited to receive the food that the students collected. Thank you to all the students that participated in the MLK Food Drive.



NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL



Newton High School participated in the MLK Food Drive and collected lots of food to go to their local food pantry, Newton Food Share. Newton Food Share is a volunteer based organization that helps feed the hungry in Newton. They are open the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month.



THANK YOU
Volunteers!
We couldn't do it without you

BEWARE OF COVID-19 FRAUD AND SCAMS



COVID-19 Vaccination Scams

As the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out continues, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network has issued a new warning about vaccine scams:

- Beware of scams offering early access to vaccines for a fee.
- Be skeptical of anyone contacting you from the federal government.
- Keep an eye out for phishing scams where scammers email or text you with phony vaccine information.
- Steer clear of scammers trying to sell fake versions of vaccines.
- Check with airlines, cruise lines, and event venues about their requirements.

Here are the facts:

- You can not pay to get early access to the vaccine.
- Medicare covers the cost of the COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines are also available free to others throughout the country, although providers may charge an administration fee.
- Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, send you a text or sends you an email promising to get you the vaccine for a fee.

For the latest vaccine updates, check with the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov). If you want to learn more about how to manage your finances during the pandemic, visit consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus.

DON'T BECOME A MONEY MULE

The Department of Justice has a new public education campaign to help prevent activity by money mules, seniors who are unwittingly recruited to transfer money from victims to fraudsters, mostly without the senior's realizing that what he/she is doing and without them knowing it is fraudulent criminal activity.

Many seniors become money mules by responding to a social media post or job advertisement that promises easy money for little effort or agreeing to help someone online (sometimes on a dating website) where the senior agrees to send or receive money.

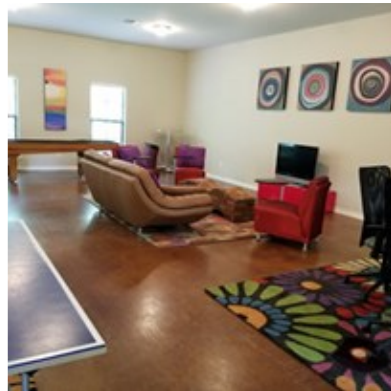
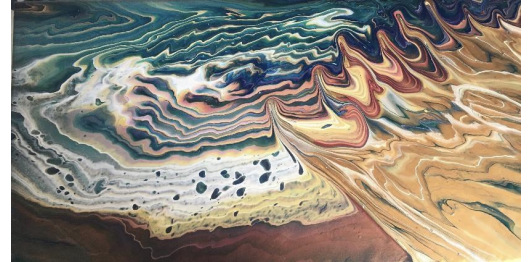
Below are ways to avoid becoming a money mule:

- Don't open a bank account or move money at someone else's direction.
- Don't give someone access to your bank account or debit card.
- Don't allow people you don't know to deposit money in your bank account.
- Don't take a job that promises easy money and involves sending or receiving money or packages.
- Don't agree to receive or forward packages.
- Don't agree to purchase gift cards or virtual currency on someone's behalf.
- Report suspicious communications or activity to law enforcement.
- Protect yourself by learning about scams and money mule activity.
- Tell your financial institution and consider changing accounts.
- Report suspicious communications or activity to law enforcement.
- Protect yourself by learning about scams and money mule activity.



The Village Nac

The Village Nac is a faith-based community in Deep East Texas where people who have chronic mental health issues and chronic homelessness can find housing, help, hope, and healing. The Village Nac has been using as a model the "Community First Village" in Austin, Texas.



The person who has put all her time and money into this wonderful place for people in special need, is Constance Engelking, Director and Founder (pictured to the right). Laura Culpepper, Co-Director (middle) and her daughter, Claire. She has received so many donations and volunteers to help make this possible. Most of their own residents participate in several of their on-site Micro-Enterprises, where they can discover a talent, learn a skill, and/or earn a living. Instruction and supervision is given for woodworking, art, organic gardening, cooking, farming, technology, jewelry making, learn music, stained glass, and bicycle repair. They are in need of volunteers to help prepare meals, painting living quarters inside and outside, landscaping, construction, farming, office help, driving, grounds keeping, and cleaning to name a few. For information on volunteering, please call Constance at (936) 615-3899, or RSVP Area Coordinator, Erin Hollis at (936) 201-0354.



To order artwork and jewelry, go to <http://www.the-village-nac-store.myshopify.com>



OUTDOOR FREEDOM NETWORK TEXAS FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL

Broadus, Texas



Outdoor Freedom Network is an AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Program Volunteer Station always in need of volunteers. Please contact Erin Hollis at (936) 201-0354 for information on volunteering.

Pictured left: The Texas Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall created to honor the sacrifice of Texans in the War on terror and to Remember the Patriotism and Heroism of our First Responders.

Pictured above: Three WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraqi Freedom, and active duty Night Stalkers serving in Afghanistan in one picture with the Wall behind them.



The Missing Man Table is a solemn ceremony centered around our military Missing in Action, MIA and Prisoners of War, POW with each component of the table setting expressing both the emotional trauma and never ending effort to find or free them and return them to their loving Family and County. You are encouraged to search and read the complete ceremony. It is both emotional and important to honor and remember them.



OUTDOOR FREEDOM NETWORK

9TH ANNUAL TEXAS FALLEN HEROES CHAMPONSHIP

Broaddus, Texas



The 2021 Texas Fallen Heroes High School Fishing Championship was held at Jackson Hill Marina on March 6th with teams competing for the right to fish in next month's Deep East Texas championship and become this seasons Anglers of the Year while fishing in Honor. The student anglers also fished to honor and Remember Texans who lost their lives fighting the War on Terror.

Mother Nature showed her nicer side on Saturday's event that not only crowned the Texas Fallen Heroes Champions but was also the 7th and final qualifying tournament for the 2021 Deep Texas High School Fishing Series Championship, and an expense paid trip to the B.A.S.S. National High School Championship. This year's tournament was shortened to one day to help limit the number of times the group would gather together.

The event also included a BBQ cookout and ceremony honoring our Texas Fallen Heroes at the 3:00 pm weigh in. This year each participant was presented a set of dog tags of one of our Texas Fallen Heroes at the morning check in with a special prayer that was to be recited before their first cast to honor them and all who have paid the ultimate price for our liberty and freedom. The student anglers were encouraged to say their heroes name out loud and to do a Google search to find any social media presence by them or their family posting a note to them that they are honoring him or her that day. Saturday morning began with a special anglers prayer to give thanks for the wonderful natural resources that we are all free to use because of the sacrifices made by our military members and their families. To find out more including complete results you can go to www.deepeasthighschoolfishing.com



Place	Club Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	Weight
1	LCM Bass Team	Justin	James	Gavin	Cooper	22.97
2	Splendora High School	Conner	Canada	Kendale	Pagan	15.45
3	Livingston Fishing Team	Kaden	Mueck	Breckett	Long	15.22

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Community RX Help in Nacogdoches, Texas

Community RX Help is a non-profit that helps people, with no prescription insurance, get their medications. They are currently looking for a retired accountant to be the treasurer on their board, to obtain copies of check register, bank statements, producing monthly reports, calculate payroll taxes for each employee, obtaining W-4's and preparing W-2's and attend board meetings 4 times a year. For more information, please contact DETCOG RSVP Area Coordinator, **Erin Hollis** at (936) 201-0354

Corrigan Christian Resource Center

Corrigan Christian Resource Center serves as a food pantry for the northern part of Polk County. The center also provides emergency help for those needing to pay utility bills or to replace items like clothing and bedding, in case an emergency such as that of a home that has been destroyed by fire. They are looking for volunteers to help at the food pantry. For more information, please contact **Erin Hollis**, RSVP Area Coordinator at (936) 201-0354, or **Sheila Nowlin**, RSVP Program Manager, at (936) 634-2247 ext. 5354.

Groveton Senior Citizens Center, Groveton, Texas

The Senior Citizens Center's Meals On Wheels Program feeds the shut-ins, the elderly, and those that need a good hot meal. Monday through Friday. Charles delivers 40 meals a day.

Volunteers are needed to help pickup donated food; cook; prepare food; package food; deliver food to individuals and/or families, and to hand out packaged food to individuals who come to the Center. For volunteering please contact DETCOG RSVP Program Manager, **Sheila Nowlin** at (936) 634-2247 ext. 5354 or **Erin Hollis**, DETCOG RSVP Area Coordinator at (936) 201-0354.

Martin Senior Service Center, Trinity, Texas

A brief overview of what Martin Senior Service Center does: a) Provides Congregate lunches Monday through Friday; prayer at 11:55 a.m. and lunch is served immediately afterwards; kitchen closes at 12:30 p.m.; b) Provides Home Delivered Meals through Department of Agriculture and Home Health Services; currently have 60 HDM clients; c) Hosts the Lions Club the first Wednesday of the month; d) Gaming twice weekly; Bingo on Mondays and Dominoes on Fridays; looking to expand these days to include other activities; a work in progress.

Volunteers are needed for Delivery Drivers to deliver meals to homebound and qualified recipients. Volunteers are needed for Outside and Inside Maintenance to include plumbing, grounds maintenance, and structural repairs. Seeking Volunteers in any category to meet their needs. For information on volunteering please contact DETCOG RSVP Program Manager, **Sheila Nowlin** at (936) 634-2247 ext. 5354 or **Erin Hollis**, DETCOG RSVP Area Coordinator at (936) 201-0354.

The Salvation Army, Lufkin, Texas

The Salvation Army is committed to "Doing the Most Good" supported by donors and partners who share a desire to help our neighbors in need. When hard times hit, we're here to help meet all of the basic needs, whether it's a box of groceries, a hot meal, emergency shelter or assistance paying rent or utilities. Providing care and aid for those living on the fringes of society is at the heart of The Salvation Army's mission. We are always looking for volunteers to assist us in these endeavors, be it mentoring, packaging food boxes, or working in the kitchen, as we serve over 300 hot meals a day. If you are interested with volunteering at the Salvation Army in Lufkin, Texas, please contact DETCOG RSVP Program Manager, **Sheila Nowlin** at (936) 634-2247 ext. 5354 or **Erin Hollis**, Area Coordinator at (936) 201-0354.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

American Red Cross, Lufkin, Texas

Help your neighbor in their greatest time of need. Home fires account for 90% of disaster responses. Compassionate and committed Disaster Action Team (DAT) volunteers respond day and night to meet the immediate needs of their neighbors. Assistance given may include financial assistance for food, clothing and lodging, emotional support, prescription medication, and other critically needed items. If you are looking for an opportunity to turn your compassion into action, JOIN the American Red Cross. For information on volunteering please contact DETCOG RSVP Program Manager, **Sheila Nowlin** at (936) 634-2247 ext. 5354 or **Erin Hollis**, DETCOG RSVP Area Coordinator at (936) 201-0354.

The Deep East Texas Area Agency on Aging Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Long-term Care Ombudsman Program needs Volunteers in Nacogdoches, Shelby, San Augustine, and Sabine counties to serve as advocates for residents living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Volunteer hours are flexible and no prior experience is required.

Volunteer Ombudsmen visit residents, identify and investigate complaints, and educate residents, families, and facility staff on protecting the health, safety, welfare, and rights of individuals living in long-term care settings. Ombudsman services are free and confidential.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and complete a free, 36-hour training course that includes virtual classroom, self-study, and in-facility training. Hours are flexible and determined by each volunteer.

If you have one hour per week to make a difference in someone's life, please contact DETCOG RSVP Program Manager, **Sheila Nowlin** at (936) 634-2247 ext. 5354 or **Erin Hollis**, DETCOG RSVP Area Coordinator at (936) 201-0354.

Our RSVP Newsletter will also be on our Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) website at www.detcog.gov/rsvp

Any volunteer stations that want to be included in our next RSVP Newsletter, please call Sheila Nowlin at (936) 634-2247 ext. 5354 or Erin Hollis at (936) 201-0354. •